REPORT

OF THE

SHEFFIELD

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE,

HELD IN

The Hall of Science, Rockingham Street,

SHEFFIELD,

DECEMBER 23d, 1849.

President.

CRANDELL DUNN.

Clerks

WALTER SAVAGE & J. S. LEES.

990

The following representation of the various Branches was handed to the President, who arranged them in the following order: —

NAMES OF BRANCHES	NAMES OF PRESIDENTS.	Elders.	Priests.	Teachers.	Deacons.	Removed by Letter.	Received by Letter.	Cut off	Dead.	Emigrated.	Baptized.	Total.	Owing the Office.	Amount donated to El. Dunn.	Amount donated to El. Roger
Sheffield	El. J. V. Long	9	17	13	3	2	4	0	4	28	10	357	0 0 0	3 13 7½	1 15 8
Attercliff	" H. Roper	1	2	3	1	2	0	0	0	5	0	38	0 0 0	0 2 6	0 2 6
Deepcar	" G. Birtles	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	14	0 0 0	0 7 0	0 0 0
Pilley	" Wadsworth	2	4	4	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	57	0 0 0	0 2 0	0 0 0
Stambro'	" Palfreyman	3	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	18	0 4 11	0 2 9	0 1 0
Woodhouse	" Hartly	6	3	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	60	0 0 0	0 5 8	0 4 8
Rotherham	" G. N. Tingle	3	9	4	3	1	0	0	0	2	8	120	9 10 2½	0 10 0	0 10 0
Schols & Thorp	Priest Hall	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	11	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Doncaster	El. G. Yeardley	4	5	3	2	0	0	2	0	3	4	38	1 16 11	0 0 0	0 0 0
Skellow	" Wright	1	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	34	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Mattersey	" J. Hugh	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	39	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 1 10
Misson	" Nickelson	1	2	1	1	1	0	2	0	6	4	36	0 0 0	0 3 8	0 0 0
Grimley	" Walker	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Calver	" Buckley	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0 9 7½	0 0 0	0 0 0
Chesterfield	" Allen	5	6	6	3	13	3	2	1	2	10	201	4 14 0	0 9 6	0 0 0
Bolsover	" Crich	2	3	5	3	0	0	0	0	7	8	46	0 13 7	0 5 0	0 0 0
Clay Cross	" Spooner	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	26	0 13 7½	0 0 0	0 0 0
Staveley	" Sheperd	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	23	0 5 0	0 2 6	0 2 6
New Brinsley	" Birch	1	4	3	1	2	7	1	0	0	4	44	0 0 0	0 5 6	0 5 0
Eastwood	" J. Stones	1	6	3	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	51	0 6 9	0 8 0	0 8 0
Heanor	" W. Stones	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	0	3	27	0 0 0	0 4 6	0 4 0
Nottingham	" J. Wigley	5	9	4	3	2	3	6	0	0	36	212	6 3 7	1 16 0	0 16 0
Arnold	" H. Kirk	1	2	1	0	0	1	3	1	0	23	66	0 0 10	0 0 0	0 0 0
Calverton	" Hazzeldine	1	2	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	7	49	0 4 4	0 0 0	0 0 0
Mansfield	" M. Slack	1	4	2	4	3	1	6	0	0	16	135	4 0 0	0 15 6½	1 10 0
Sutton	Priest Wilson	0	1	1	1	0	7	1	0	0	10	38	0 0 0	0 4 1½	0 0 0
Scattered		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Total		53	101	65	34	34	29	38	9	54	16½	1789	29 9 4½	9 17 10	6 1 [illegible]

UPB

The Conference assembled at half-past Ten o'Clock, on Sunday Morning, December 23d, 1849, was called to order. It was moved by J. V. Long, seconded by J. S. Lees, that Elder Crandell Dunn preside over the Meeting—Carried. Also moved and carried that Walter Savage act as Clerk, assisted by J. S. Lees, for the day. Elder G. Rodger then arose and gave out a hymn, which the choir sung, then prayer was offered up to the eternal Father of Heaven and Earth, by Elder G. Rodger. Another song of Zion was then sung, after which Elder C. Dunn arose, and exprest his happiness to meet with so many of his brethren in the Priesthood in the capacity of a conference, to arrange things for the welfare of the work of God, according to the wisdom he has given us. Also desired an interest in their prayers, that he might counsel in righteousness the things which belong to their peace, and further stated he was exceedingly happy in having the privilege of introducing to the Conference Elder J. W. Cummings, who has been appointed by the presidency of the British Isles to take charge of the Conference We shall not proceed in the same order with the Conference business as heretofore; we shall begin by taking the feelings of the Saints upon the various authorities of the Church in their order, and then make such arrangements as may be thought best for the welfare of the work, in appointing the Elders their different fields of labour. And in the afternoon I intend to give you a general account of the work of God in the Conference since I came here, and also to inform you how I stand with the office in Liverpool for books and stars, &c.

Last Sunday we called a Conference in Nottingham, and transacted such business as we deemed wisdom for the benefit of the work of God in that part of the Conference, all of which will be laid before you this day for your approval. He next called for the number of Officers present, when they were ascertained to be as follows:—One High Priest, one Seventy, twenty-two Elders, twenty-one Priests, twelve Teachers, and five Deacons

Elder Dunn then remarked he wished the Saints to act with freedom, and as some motions of importance would next be brought before them, hoped they would vote according to the feelings of their hearts, either for or against, as he wished every thing manifested in its true character

It was then moved by Elder C. Dunn, seconded by Elder G. Rodger that we acknowledge and sustain Brigham Young, Heber C Kimbell. and Willard Richards as the first Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of LATTER DAY SAINTS, throughout all the world

Moved by Elder C. Dunn, seconded by Elder J. V. Long, that we sustain and uphold the twelve Apostles in their calling as special witnesses for God throughout all the world.

Moved by Elder C. Dunn, seconded by Elder Lees, that we sustain and uphold by our faith and prayers, Elder Orson Pratt, as the President of the British Isles.

Moved by the President, seconded by Elder Long, that we accept the appointment of J. W. Cummings, by President O. Pratt, as the President of this Conference, and uphold him by our faith, means, and prayers.

Moved by the President, seconded by Elder Rodger, that Elder Long still retain the Presidency of the Sheffield Branch; that his whole time be given up to the ministry, and devote a portion of the same to Rotherham and vicinity; and that Elder J S. Lees be his counsellor, and preside in his absence.

Moved by the President, seconded by Elder Rodger, that Elder W. Brewerton be removed from Chesterfield, to take the charge of Nottingham and vicinity

Moved by the President, seconded by Elder W. Brewerton, that Elder T. Hardy devote the whole of his time to the ministry, and go to labour in Chesterfield and vicinity

Moved by the President, and seconded by Elder Hardy, that Elder Roper take the Presidency of the Woodhouse Branch, and be released from Attercliffe Branch, over which he has presided.

Moved by the President, seconded by Elder Rodger, that Elder Martin Slack preside over the Mansfield Branch, and labour in Mansfield Woodhouse, Sutton, and vicinity.

Moved by the President, seconded by Elder Roper, that Priest Pollucc preside over the Attercliffe Branch.

Moved by the President, seconded by Elder Lees, that Elder James. Wadsworth, preside over the Pilley Branch.

Moved by the President, seconded by Elder Lees, that Elder R. Palfreman preside over the Stambro' Branch.

Moved by the President, and seconded, that Elder Yeardly preside over the Doncaster Branch.

Moved by the President, seconded by Elder Long, that Elder J W. Cummings be the general Book Agent for this Conference.

All the above motions without an exception were carried unanimously.

The President then introduced Elder Cummings, who arose and exprest himself happy, although a stranger to the Sheffield Saints, having never before visited this place; he felt highly satisfied with the business of the morning so far, and as he was unacquainted with the Conference, he trusted to the wisdom of President Dunn, who knew the condition of all parts of the same, believing that all was done for the best; hoping that the President of the various branches in the Conference would be united with him in helping to push forward the great work of God in these last days, that his purposes might be accomplished, and his people gathered and rest in peace.

He was glad to see the union of the meeting in voting to sustain the resolutions which had come before them, but it was an easy matter to lift up their hands to vote, did they know the nature of it; it was entering into covenant to do a certain work, and a neglect of that duty was a violation of that covenant; he therefore urged the necessity of being true and faithful in the position we had taken, and then we should accomplish our object.

The meeting then was dismissed with a benediction from Elder W. Brewerton, and adjourned till two o'clock.

Meeting opened in the usual way at two o'clock in the afternoon.—Elder Dunn then read the representations of the various branches as contained on the second page, and then spoke of the condition and number of the Conference when he came to Sheffield, which was as follows:—

Twelve branches, 610 Member; including fourteen Elders, forty-one Priests, sixteen Teachers, and eleven Deacons.

At the present time the Conference numbers twenty six Branches, 1789 Members, including fifty-three Elders, 101 Priests, sixty-four Teachers, and thirty-four Deacons.

During my presidency two years and a half, there has been 183 cut off, thirty-three dead, 160 emigrated, 136 removed, and 1691 baptized, which leaves an increase of 1179, and brings in fourteen additional Branches, thirty-nine Elders, fifty-nine Priests, forty-eight Teachers and twenty-three Deacons.

The number of stars, books, and tracts, sold in the Conference during my agency, is as follows:—18261 Stars, 991 Hymn Books, 177 Books of Mormon, 151 Doctrine and Covenants, 379 Voices of Warning, 208 Spencers letters, bound, 3,916 in sheets; 66 M. Martin's Treatise on the Gospel, 9,100 part 1st, 2d, and 3d, Kingdom of God. 1,000 4th part; 2,600 Divine Authorities, 1,500 Remarkable Visions 1000 Replies to Remarks on Mormonism, 500 New Jerusalems.

The amount owing to the Office				£91	3	4
				£86	17	3½
Books in hand to balance the above,	£26	1	0			
Standing out in the various branches	29	9	4½	£4	6	0½
Cash in hand, ...	31	6	11			
	£86	17	3½			

This account shows the agent in debt to the Office £4. 6s. 0½

The President then said he was glad to see the Saints so willing to take the various publications, and advised them not to slacken in their endeavours in the spreading of the printed word; keep up these Book Societies, see what good they have done already, how many scores that have been enabled to obtain books by this means that were not able to get them in any other way. It is also the duty of every officer in the church to use all his influence to increase the circulation of the Star, many of the young brethren and sisters stand much in their own light in this thing; it is often the case that there are four or five young men and women in the same house who do not take the Stars because their father takes them; this should not be the case, those young men may become heads of families, and those young women may become wives and mothers, and all should have the Stars well and substantially bound, laying on their book shelves, together with the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, &c. &c. as a foundation for a family library. The Star Agents are positively forbidden to sell any books, stars, &c. on credit, therefore let none of the Saints think

it hard at being refused credit He also stated that as soon as the business of this day was concluded, Brother Cummings will enter upon his duties as President, of this Conference in his stead. He felt to recommend Elder Cummings as a faithful servant of God; he has been in the Church some time, and has had some experience in presiding as well as preaching; he had the utmost confidence in him, and hoped the Saints would uphold and sustain Elder Cummings as they had sustained and upheld himself since he had been among them, both by their faith, means, and prayers, and adhere to his counsel and teaching, and administer to the wants of his family; by doing so the Lord will bless you, and the great work of God will roll on in this part of the vineyard, and scores be brought into the kingdom of God; and in due time you will see the fruits of your labours; and many that now are in darkness, and know but little of the truths of heaven, rejoicing with you in the fulness of the gospel. All the Saints have got a work to do, and can assist in rolling on the kingdom of God; and the more faithful you are in keeping his commandments, the more of the Holy Spirit you will enjoy, and the sooner you will be delivered from this land of sorrow and distress and be gathered with the faithful to Zion, and assist in building a temple to the God of Abraham, Isaac, Joseph and Hyram, in the mountains of Israel, where the power of Elijah's God will be manifested to the Saints as in days of old. There are now and then a few who for a paltry sum of a few shillings bring disgrace on themselves and others, and the innocent and just suffer with the unjust for a time until their works are more fully manifest, which otherwise cannot be hid, and eventually be severed from the Church — He was sorry to say there were some few holding the Priesthood, who through the pressing times had got involved in debt, and through circumstances had been obliged to leave and remove to other parts in the Conference, who had done so without making any agreement satisfactory to the minds of their creditors, and therefore bringing a disgrace upon themselves. He would ask such like if they thought to honor the priesthood of God, who should stand a light and saviour to the world by acting thus? No! verily, no! but must bring a stigma upon the cause they have espoused, destroy their own reputation, and forfeit the influence which they as men of God should enjoy. He would advise such to read the counsel of Elder Pratt, Millenial Star, vol. 10, page 298, and see if they would like the portion promised therein; if not, let them REPENT, and secure the full fellowship of the Saints, with the smiles and approbation of Jehovah.

He further said there had been some going from place to place in the Conference, soliciting and taking up collections from the Saints without the consent of the President. He would counsel them not to encourage such subscriptions, unless their certificates be officially signed by the President of the Conference, that they may be protected from imposition, which in a few instances had been the case.

He likewise gave some counsel to the Priesthood, through the Conference, to abide at home, and shine in their own orbits, instead of going about from branch to branch, unless the President of the Conference counsel them to do so, or the presiding Elder of the branch

invites them. This he said would preserve good order, so essential and necessary towards the present happiness and prosperity of the work.

President Dunn further gave some instructions to the Presidents of Branches to this effect, that when any of the Saints leave the branches to which they belong, without lines, and go to some other quarter near another branch, it is the duty of the President or Clerk of the Branch they left, to report them immediately to the President of that branch, informing him of their standing, hand them over to his charge, and report their names at next Conference, as having left without lines — When any of the Officers become aware of the fact of a Member of the Church being in their neighbourhood, without joining him or herself to the branch, it is their duty to call upon them and enquire the reason — If they have lines, teach them it is their duty to hand them in; if they have not lines, inquire where they are from, and inform the President of the matter; it will then be his duty to inform the President of the branch they left, requesting their lines of good or bad standing; and let all the presidents be careful that the lines be a true statement of the standing of the person or persons. By observing this plan strictly, there can be no member of the Church in the Conference, that will not be under the strict surveillance of those having charge over them. He further remarked that it was entirely out of order for any of the Saints to get up any tracts, ballads, &c. and have them printed for circulation through the conference, without first gaining the assent of the President, & hoped that none of the Saints would stand in their own light in this respect, but always be willing to observe that order which will ultimately secure their peace and freedom.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS

WERE THEN BROUGHT BEFORE THE CONFERENCE:

Moved, seconded, and carried, that we uphold and sustain by our faith and prayer the Presidents of the various branches, comprising the Conference.

Moved by Elder Lees, seconded by Elder Long, that we highly approve of the labours, teaching, and council, of President Dunn during his Presidency in this Conference, and as he has been called to labour in the Edinborough Conference by President O. Pratt, that we recommend him to the Saints as a faithful servant of God; praying that Heaven may bless him with more of the Holy Spirit and crown his labours with success—carried.

Moved by Elder Lees, seconded by Elder Long that we approve of the labours and teaching of Elder G. Rodger, and highly recommend him to the Saints in the Liverpool Conference, where he has been called to labour by President Pratt, praying that the Lord will bless him in his new field of labour, in rolling on the Kingdom of God—carried.

A committee was then appointed to draw up a letter of commendation for the above faithful brethren: which was read to the meeting in the evening and approved of unanimously.—The meeting then adjourned till six o'clock Prayer by Elder Rodger.

Met at Six o'Clock, the Meeting was opened in the usual way. The evening was occupied by Elder Rodger, Dunn, and Cummings, who in their several speeches, spoke with great spirit and energy, councilling and exorting the Saints to be faithful in keeping the commandments of God given through his servants in these last days, that the kingdom of God may roll forth, the righteous be gathered, Zion built, and a way be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man in the Clouds of Heaven.

C. Dunn and Rodger left the Saints with the best of feelings, and with the confidence, blessing, and best wishes of many whom they had brought to a knowledge of the truth, and many both in and out of the Church regretted their departure from the Conference.

AT THE CONCLUSION

THE FOLLOWING HYMN

WAS SUNG:

1 O how glorious will be the morning,
When Christ will come on earth again;
The Saints of God for him are waiting:
For a thousand years with him to reign.

CHORUS.

Repent and be washed clean from sin,
And then a crown of life you'll win,
For the day we seek is nigh is nigh at hand.

2 Let us trim our lamps and keep them burning,
And be ready when he says well done,
Lest we should die when we behold him,
For his glory's brighter than the sun.

3 The Lamb and Lion will dwell together,
When the righteous reign it doth commence;
Then the second death will have no power,
For pain and death will be banish'd hence.

4 And now we are the bride adorning,
And preparing for the great I am,
Then we shall all receive a blessing,
At the marriage supper of the Lamb.

THE CONFERENCE THEN CONCLUDED BY A BENEDICTION FROM THE PRESIDENT.

T. POTTER, PRINTER, BARKER POOL, SHEFFIELD.